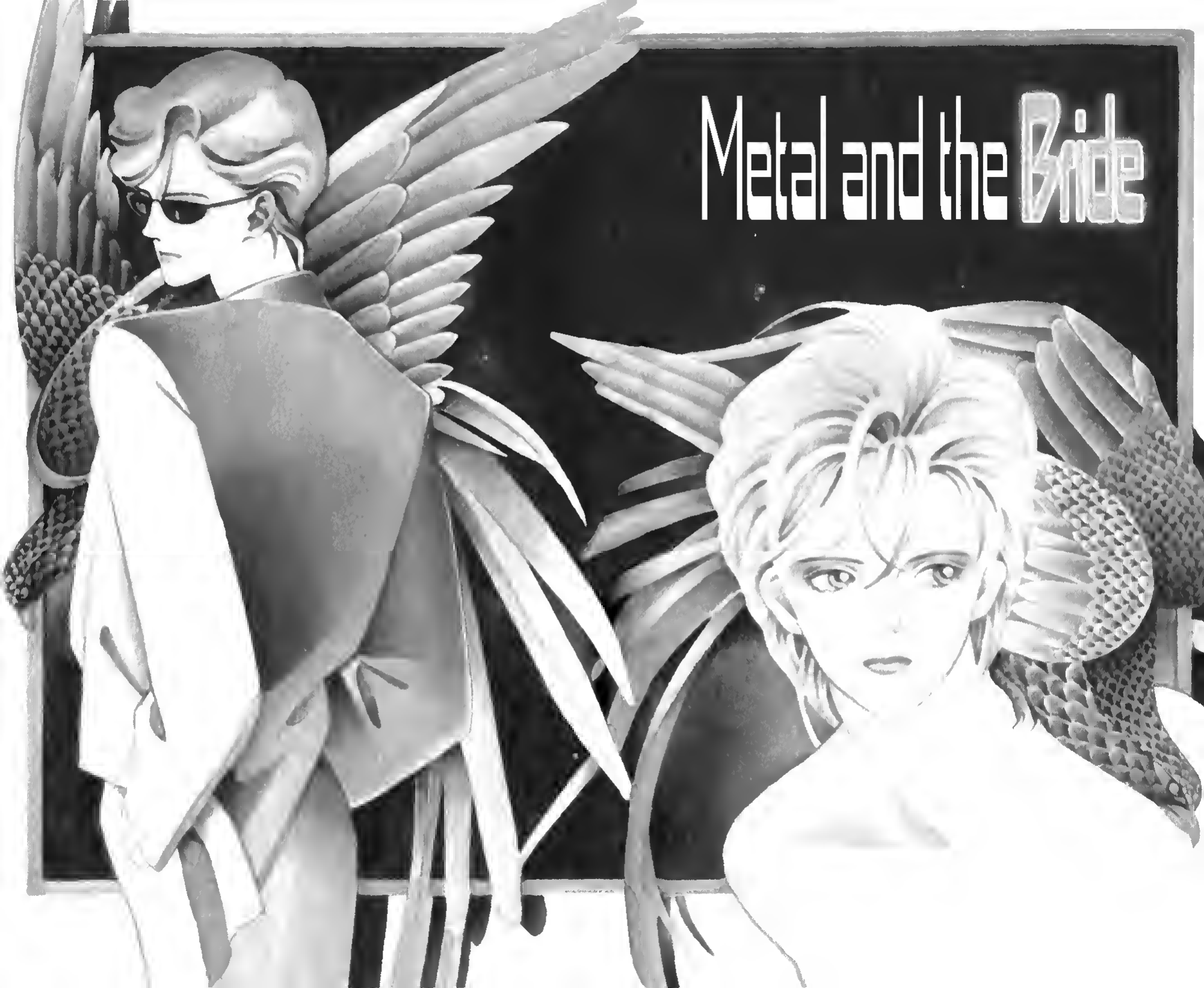
Noah's Spaceship

- Story 2 -

Metal and the Bride

Metal and the Bride

HUH...
YOU'VE GOTTEN BETTER, JACK.
MILANO!
C'MERE I'VE GOT A NEW JOB LINED UP-- YOU'LL TAKE IT, RIGHT?
YEAH, I SAW THE WHOLE THING.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN THERE? DID YOU SEE THAT JUST NOW? I DIDN'T MISS A SINGLE SHOT!
MILANO.
IF YOU'RE TELLING ME TO, I WILL..


Metal and the Bride

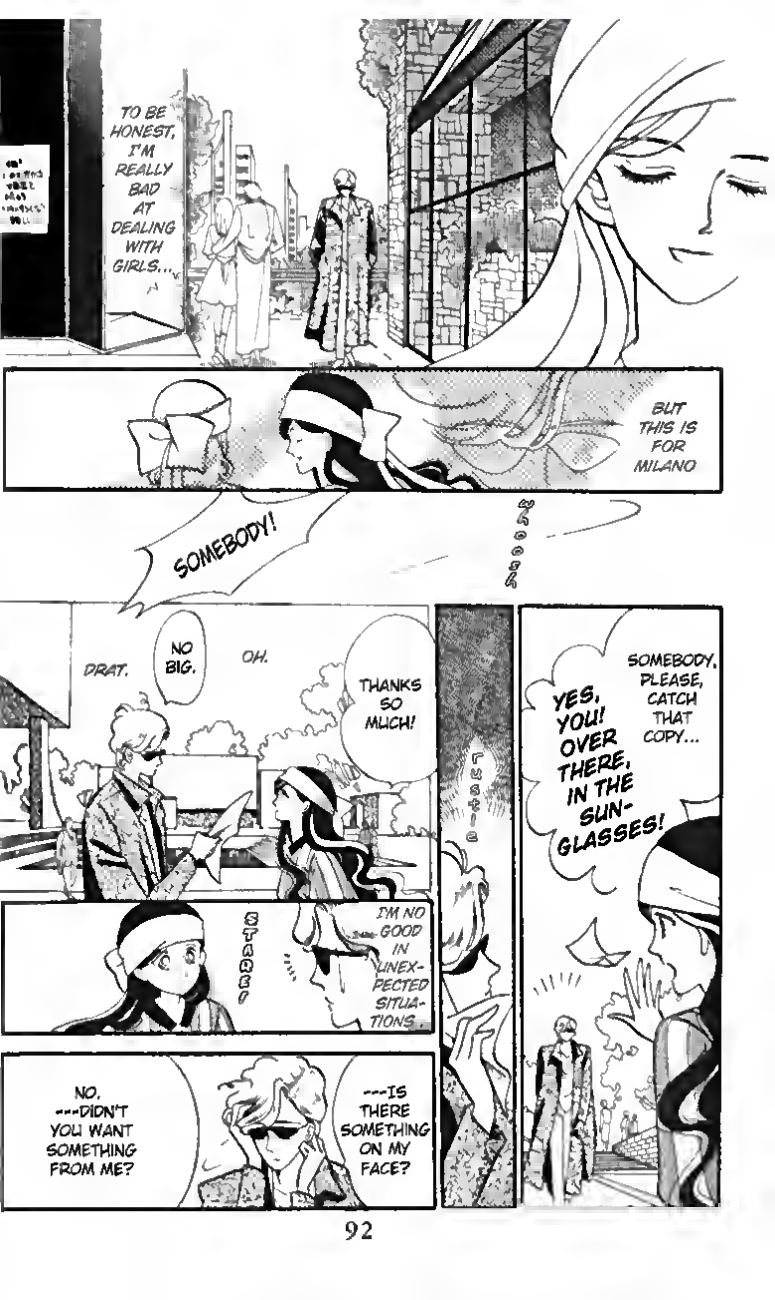
* Point of Interest See page 46 panel 4 of "The Rest of the Dream" (Takam's second line.)

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO RUB HIM OUT BY THE END OF THIS MONTH.
MISTER L. BRAIN.* CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT.
UNLIKE YOUR PREVIOUS JOBS, HIS SECURITY IS PERFECT AND ALL HIS WINDOWS ARE BULLETPROOF GLASS THAT'LL MAKE IT TOUGH TO DO FROM THE OUTSIDE.
THE THING IS...
I'LL HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET MYSELF INSIDE...
THEN...
NAME OF ELLE--
THE GUY'S GOT ONE DAUGHTER.

ELLE, COME ON!
YOU'RE GOING HOME ALREADY?
SORRY! MY RIDE'S HERE. I'LL SEE YOU LATER.
ELLE!
J!
JUST SEND THE GUY HOME WITHOUT YOU! YOU SHOULD GO PLACES WITH US ONCE IN A WHILE.
Man!
.....
J SHOWED UP.
J? OH, HIM...
WHAT'S WRONG? GET DUMPED AGAIN?

ELLE BRAIN.
THE APPLE OF MISTER BRAIN'S EYE.
WHILE GETTING CLOSE TO HER WOULD DEFINITELY MAKE THE JOB EASIER...
THAT'S SO LAME! YOU'RE SUCH A KID!
HEY, ANY-ONE WOULD GET JEALOUS! SHE'S ALWAYS STUCK TO HIM LIKE GLUE.
THE GUY'S A REAL EYESORE, YOU KNOW? ALWAYS HANGING AROUND ELLE...
OH, COME ON! YOU'RE JEALOUS OF THAT?
THAT'S LIGHT-YEARS AWAY FROM MY WORLD.
...AND EVEN HAS HER OWN PERSONAL BODYGUARD?
SHE TAKES A PERSONAL, NON-STOP MONORAIL HOME FROM SCHOOL...
TAP!
I SWEAR! YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING WORTHWHILE, YOU DON'T STUDY, YOU CAN'T EVEN DO CHORES...
YOU--! JACK, YOU'LL BE A NUISANCE WHEREVER YOU GO!
YOU AGAIN, JACK!
WHAT DID YOU DO?!!
JACK!

JACK! THAT WAS GREAT! BULL'S-EYE, DEAD CENTER.
JACK.
DO YOU LIKE GUNS?
MILANO...
WHADDAYA SAY? WANT TO COME WORK FOR ME?
YOU'VE GOT TALENT, JACK.
I'LL TEACH YOU ALL THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT GUNS.
YOU REALLY WANT ME? AWESOME!
YEAH, IF YOU WANT TO COME.
REALLY!?
MILANO, LOOK! I CAN SHOOT DIRECT HITS 80% OF THE TIME NOW!
MILANO!
I'M A-LEVEL!
THAT'S TERRIFIC, JACK.
MILANO WAS THE ONLY PERSON WHO HELD OUT A HAND TO ME, THE "NUISANCE".
THAT'S REALLY SOMETHING, JACK.


TO BE HONEST, I'M REALLY BAD AT DEALING WITH GIRLS...
BUT THIS IS FOR MILANO
SOMEBODY!
DRAT.
NO BIG.
OH.
THANKS SO MUCH!
I'M NO GOOD IN UNEXPECTED SITUATIONS...
STARE
---IS THERE SOMETHING ON MY FACE?
NO, ---DIDN'T YOU WANT SOMETHING FROM ME?
Rustle
SOMEBODY, PLEASE, CATCH THAT COPY...
YES, YOU! OVER THERE, IN THE SUN-GLASSES!

I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU, ELLE!
IF YOU'RE JUST GOING TO KEEP TRAILING AROUND AFTER ME, I'LL CALL THE POLICE...
Ah-hm
No, I...
.....
WHAT IS IT? WHAT DID YOU NEED?
AND HERE I WENT TO ALL THAT TROUBLE TO GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO TALK...
EH?
YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWING ME THIS WHOLE TIME, YOU KNOW?
EXCUSE ME.
I GUESS SO.
OH.
--AND YOU'RE ALREADY DOING THAT, AREN'T YOU.
GRAB
N - NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I--

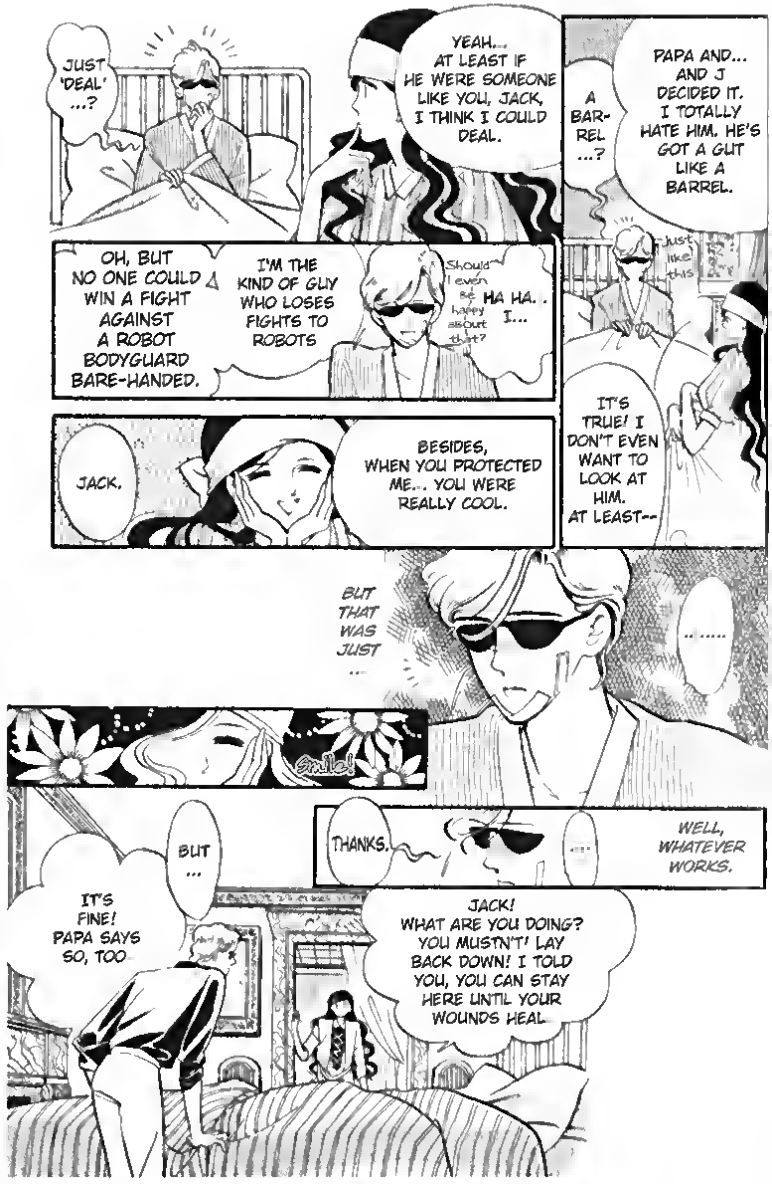
MASTER CUORE IS WAITING. WE MUST RETURN HOME QUICKLY.
ELLE.
Uh!
MASTER CUORE CAME TO SEE YOU, ELLE.
NO.
....
J!
ER?
TELL THAT TO MASTER CUORE, J'!
NO WAY! I MADE THIS GUY A PROMISE I CAN'T BREAK.
SHE'S SAYING SHE DOESN'T WANT TO GO, YOU KNOW.
GRR!
MISTER JACK NIGEL, THEN. WOULD YOU STEP ASIDE?
JACK --
JACK ... NIGEL.
WOW
HIS EYES ARE ALMOST METALLIC.
THEY'RE ACTUALLY REFLECTING THE LIGHT.
--AND YOU ARE?
Glare

THEN YOU'LL BE HURT, MISTER ...
OH, I'LL BE HURT!? YOU SURE TALK BIG, SQUIRT! WHO DO YOU THINK I AM, HUH?
I MUST TAKE HER HOME QUICKLY, YOU SEE. PLEASE STEP ASIDE.
NO...
GET ON HER GOOD SIDE SOME-HOW...
JACK, IT'S FINE, I'LL GO, SO--
NO, ELLE! IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GO, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO.
.....
WOULD YOU STEP ASIDE?
I HAVE TO
MISTER JACK NIGEL.
Yank!
WAIT...
JACK!
Swish...
NO, JACK, DON'T!
JS A--

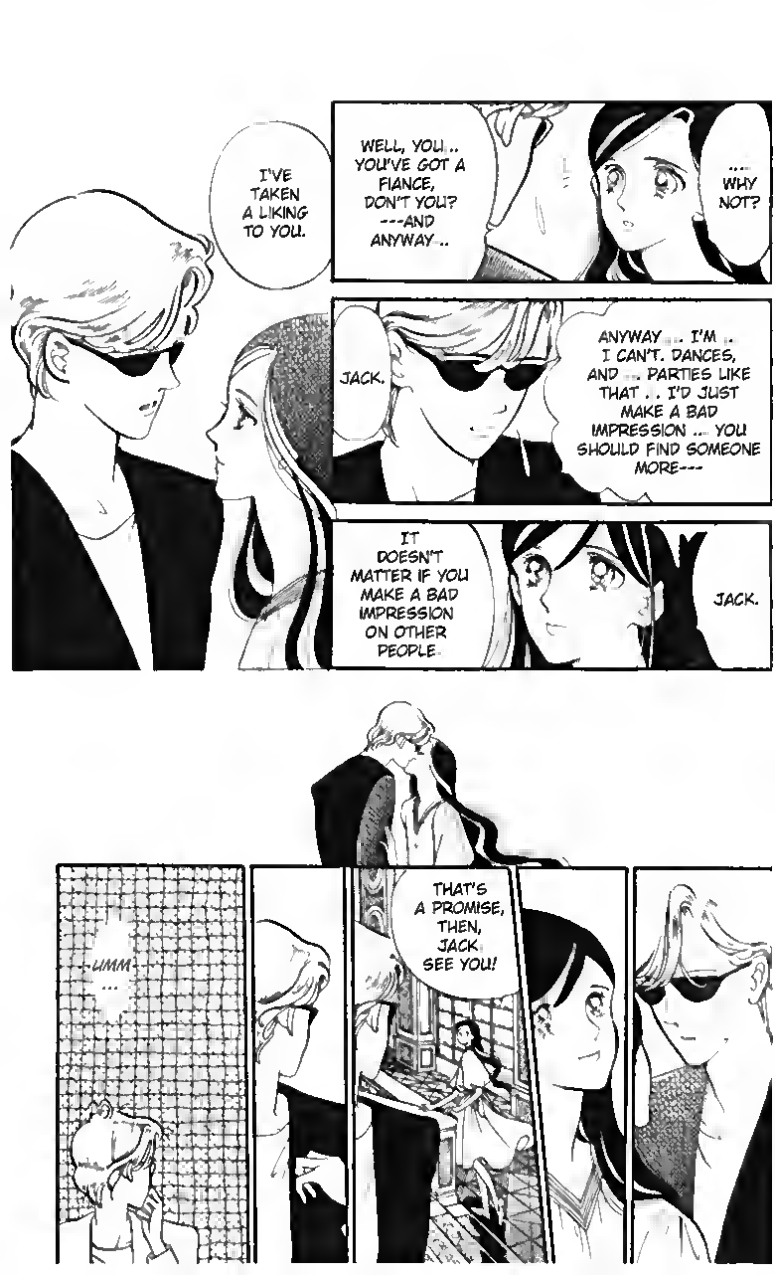
CRACK
EH?
J'S A ROBOT!
A HUMANOID BODY-GUARD AND MULTI-FUNCTIONAL ROBOT.
I'M PRETTY SURE I'VE HEARD ABOUT THOSE IN STORIES.
SOMETHING ABOUT HOW THEY WERE ADAPTED FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES STARTING IN THE EARLY TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY, AND USED ONLY BY SOCIETY'S UPPER CRUST---
BUT I THOUGHT THEY'D BE MORE MACHINE-LIKE...
KIND OF LIKE THIS.
click-clank
This.
----TMENT.
I'VE FINISHED WITH YOUR TREATMENT.
EH?
Took a fearsome uppercut
--OH. THANKS VERY MUCH.

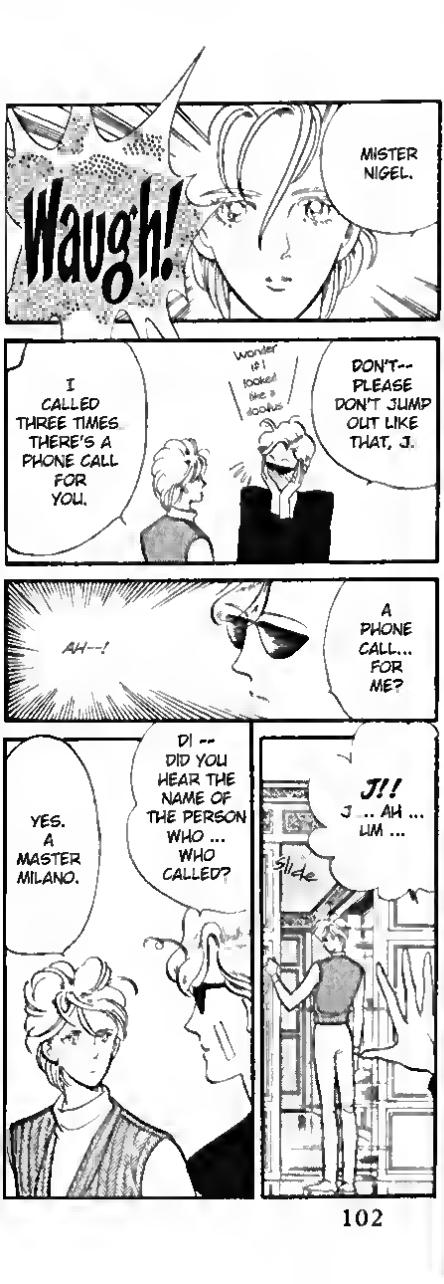
SO... IT'S WEIRD TO SAY THANK YOU TO MACHINES, THEN?
AH--
YOU'VE GOT GOOD MANNERS, DON'T YOU, JACK.
chuckle
...EVEN IF YOU CUT THAT BEAUTIFUL WHITE SKIN, HE WOULDN'T BLEED?
THEN...
IF HE'S JUST MAKING PRECISION JUDGMENTS AND THEN MOVING ACCORDING TO THOSE
NO MATTER WHERE OR HOW YOU CUT, NO BLOOD OR MUSCLE -- OR SOUL -- WOULD COME OUT?
snicker
IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME SEEING A ROBOT?
PROBA-BLY.
WAS I STARING THAT MUCH?
John

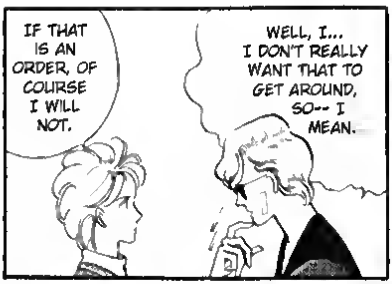
...WHOM YOU COULDN'T TELL APART FROM HUMANS WITHOUT DISSECTING THEM.
MISTER NIGEL.
CURRENTLY, ROBOTS EVEN MORE COMPLEX AND ACCURATE THAN I ARE BEING MADE EVEN CLOSER TO HUMAN. ---AND THOSE ARE THE ONES...
IT'S FINE. THERE'S NO POINT IN GETTING MAD AT A MACHINE, ANY-WAY.
JACK, I'M SORRY! FIRST HE HURTS YOU, AND THEN THAT...!
Stark
I BEG YOUR PARDON
.....
---NOTHING IMPORTANT. SIMPLY TALKING. SINCE THIS GENTLEMAN APPEARS TO KNOW VERY LITTLE ABOUT ROBOTS.
? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
Stark
J!
IN THE END, HE'S REALLY ONLY ...
THAT'S... TRUE, ISN'T IT.
---OH. HIM. HE'S MY FIANCE.
ELLE? WHO'S MASTER CUORE?
A MACHINE, JUST A HEAP OF METAL

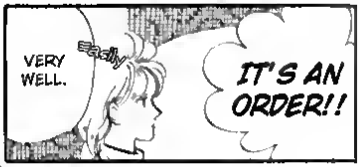

JUST 'DEAL' ...?
YEAH... AT LEAST IF HE WERE SOMEONE LIKE YOU, JACK, I THINK I COULD DEAL.
A BARREL ...?
PAPA AND... AND J DECIDED IT. I TOTALLY HATE HIM. HE'S GOT A GUT LIKE A BARREL.
Just like this
OH, BUT NO ONE COULD WIN A FIGHT AGAINST A ROBOT BODYGUARD BARE-HANDED.
I'M THE KIND OF GUY WHO LOSES FIGHTS TO ROBOTS
Should I even be happy about that?
HA HA.. I...
IT'S TRUE! I DON'T EVEN WANT TO LOOK AT HIM. AT LEAST--
JACK.
BESIDES, WHEN YOU PROTECTED ME... YOU WERE REALLY COOL.
BUT THAT WAS JUST ...
.....
Smile!
THANKS.
....
WELL, WHATEVER WORKS.
BUT ...
IT'S FINE! PAPA SAYS SO, TOO
JACK! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU MUSTN'T LAY BACK DOWN! I TOLD YOU, YOU CAN STAY HERE UNTIL YOUR WOUNDS HEAL

I JUST GOT SO MANY CHANCES AT THIS I COULD GIVE SOME AWAY. IT'S LIKE HE'S SAYING 'YES, PLEASE KILL ME'
JACK!
THIS ACTUALLY
THANK YOU
MAKES GETTING INJURED MORE THAN WORTH IT
I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACTIONS OF MY ROBOT. PLEASE, DON'T FEEL YOU HAVE TO HOLD ANY-THING BACK AROUND US.
HE'S UNEXPEC-TEDLY FRIENDLY, THIS MISTER L
SO, YOU'RE JACK, EH?
PAPA.
JACK, LOOK, LOOK! ISN'T THIS DRESS PRETTY? PAPA MADE IT FOR ME.
..SOME-TIME WHEN ELLE'S NOT AROUND...
WHAT'S THE OCCA-SION?
AT LEAST I'LL DO IT...
WOW
YOUR BIRTH-DAY?
SURE IS! YOU COME TO THE PARTY, TOO, JACK. YOU'LL BE MY ESCORT, WON'T YOU?
M - ME!? I CAN'T!


I'VE TAKEN A LIKING TO YOU.
WELL, YOU... YOU'VE GOT A FIANCE, DON'T YOU? ---AND ANYWAY..
...WHY NOT?
JACK.
ANYWAY... I'M. I CAN'T. DANCES, AND... PARTIES LIKE THAT.. I'D JUST MAKE A BAD IMPRESSION... YOU SHOULD FIND SOMEONE MORE---
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU MAKE A BAD IMPRESSION ON OTHER PEOPLE.
JACK.
-UMM...
THAT'S A PROMISE, THEN, JACK. SEE YOU!


WHAT SHOULD I DO..
...IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS...
ELLE
MISTER NIGEL.
Waugh!
I CALLED THREE TIMES. THERE'S A PHONE CALL FOR YOU.
Wonder if I looked like a dookie
DON'T-- PLEASE DON'T JUMP OUT LIKE THAT, J.
AH--!
A PHONE CALL... FOR ME?
YES. A MASTER MILANO.
DI -- DID YOU HEAR THE NAME OF THE PERSON WHO ... WHO CALLED?
Slide
J!!
J ... AH ... UM ...





「メタルと花嫁の中にDURAN」
は何回出ているでしょう――
と落書きしていたところ 何人か
マジで探してる方もいたので
ここに一応解答(？)をのせます

JOHN→3回、ANDY→3回
ROGER→2回
(全てコマ数で計算)

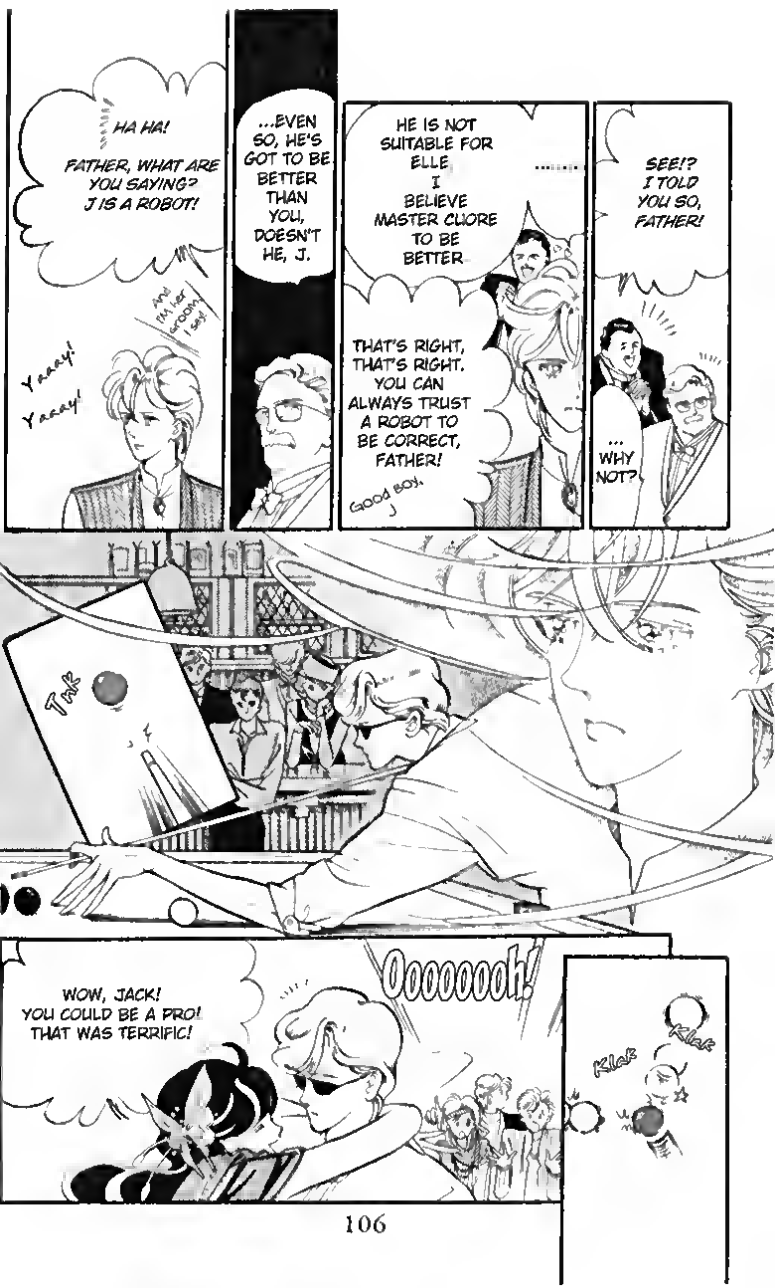
ただし次のページの下のコマ
のパーッのた一応メンバー全員
エキストラで描いてます。左から
ニック ジョン サイモン ロジャー
アンディ 1人おいてロジャー ジョン
ニックです。(写真みてかいてません
よ。 一応 わかんないだろうけど)
　なんでこんなアホな真似を
するかというと 単に好きだから
です

DEAD WHITE
......
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
WELL, I... I DON'T REALLY WANT THAT TO GET AROUND, SO-- I MEAN.
IF THAT IS AN ORDER, OF COURSE I WILL NOT.
IT'S AN ORDER!!
Easily
VERY WELL.
HE DOESN'T JOKE OR LIE
HE'S ONLY A PRETTY DOLL.
....
Seriously?
PLEASE DON'T WORRY, MISTER NIGEL.
AND I'M VERY BAD WITH HIM---
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, JACK?

ちなみに私は[illegible]の
[illegible]が好きだ！かわいい！
かわいい！かわいい！！

--I'M WAITING FOR A GOOD OPPORTUNITY.
MILANO TOLD YOU TO KILL MISTER L. HE DIDN'T SAY TO MOVE IN WITH HIM.
THERE'S A LITTLE TIME LEFT. I WON'T BLOW IT.
...GOOD.
SO LONG AS YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN HOW MUCH YOU OWE MILANO.
WHOOO
YOU'RE SURE THAT'S OKAY?
HE DOESN'T SEEM ALL THAT RELIABLE ...
THE GUY'S A PRO. LET HIM WORK.
EVEN IF HE'S A PRO, IF HE'S WITH THEM, HE'LL GET ATTACHED ...
ATTACHED?
WHAT'RE YOU, AN IDIOT? THAT'S NOT EVEN POSSIBLE.
Chuckle Chuckle
HUH ... AH. GUESS NOT, HUH.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ELLE!

YEAH, WHO IS HE? I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM BEFORE...
AAAAAH! WHAT THE --!? WHAT'S THAT GUY IN THE SHADES DOING WITH MY ELLE!?
FATHER!
FATHER! WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT!?
MASTER CUORE.
WASN'T I SUPPOSED TO BE HER ESCORT!?
THANK YOU!
CONGRATULATIONS!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
CONGRATULATIONS, ELLE.
NO. HE'S NO GOOD.
RIGHT, J?
.....
HELP
NO! FATHER!
..WELL, THIS IS WHAT ELLE WANTED
BESIDES, JACK DOESN'T SEEM A BAD SORT, EITHER.


HA HA!
FATHER, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? J IS A ROBOT!
Yaaay!
Yaaay!
And I'm not groom, I say!
...EVEN SO, HE'S GOT TO BE BETTER THAN YOU, DOESN'T HE, J.
HE IS NOT SUITABLE FOR ELLE ..... I BELIEVE MASTER CLORE TO BE BETTER
THAT'S RIGHT, THAT'S RIGHT. YOU CAN ALWAYS TRUST A ROBOT TO BE CORRECT, FATHER!
Good boy, J
SEE!? I TOLD YOU SO, FATHER!
... WHY NOT?
Tak
WOW, JACK! YOU COULD BE A PRO! THAT WAS TERRIFIC!
Ooooooh!
Klak
Klak

KEH! WHAT'S WITH THAT, HUH?? THE GUY'S PRACTICALLY DROOLING!
NUH-UH ELLE'S THE ONE DOING THE DROOLING.
IT'S RARE, THOUGH, ISN'T IT. ELLE'S NEVER THAT CLINGY IN PUBLIC.
ELLE, ELLE! SERIOUSLY, ELLE! WHEN ON EARTH DID YOU PICK UP A GUY THIS GOOD!?
YOU'VE ALREADY GOT MASTER CHORE, RIGHT? LET ME BORROW THIS ONE!
Ack!
HAH! OH, SURE, I LOVE THAT BARREL GUT...
FAHTER!
Say something to her!
Well, but she's lovely.
SAY, JACK, WHY ARE YOU LIVING AT ELLE'S PLACE?
EH?
--NO! YOU'RE NOT A FREELOADER, ARE YOU? YOU WORK, DON'T YOU? WHAT DO YOU DO?
UM . I DON'T...
OH-- YOU'RE UNEMPLOYED?
MY! YOU DIDN'T KNOW EITHER, ELLE?
OH, ELLE! THAT'S SO CARELESS OF YOU. HE'S SO YOUNG --
AND ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU'RE SO RICH, YOU KNOW...

Grab!

Ah ha ha!
ELLE!
MASTER CUORE!
FWUMP!
OVER HERE, JACK! COME ON!
ELLE!
OH, THAT! WHO CARES!? HE'S GOING TO BE MY HUSBAND SOON!
Whoa!
ELLE
ELLE
JACK

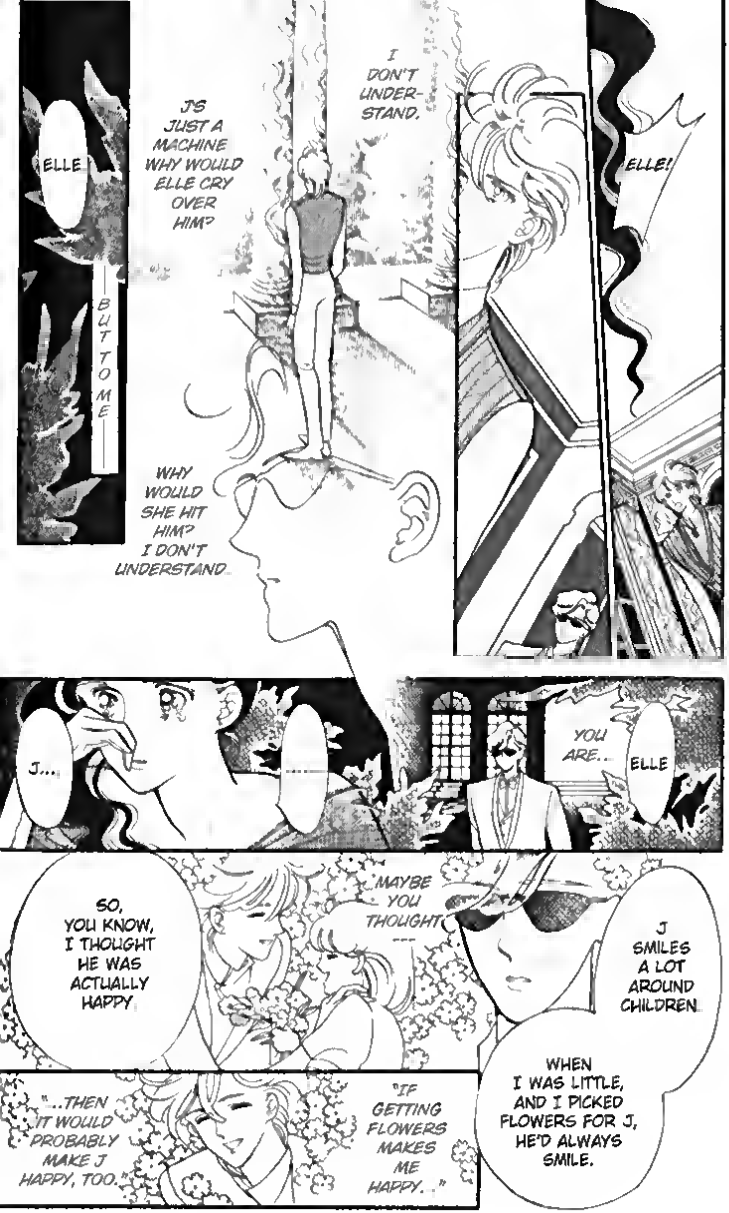
I'M GLAD..
A PORCELAIN FACE FRAMED BY GLOSSY BLACK HAIR...
A BEAUTIFUL SMILE, TURNED TOWARDS ME...
JACK, DID THAT BOTHER YOU?
NOPE
OH, GOOD!
ELLE!
ELLE
HAPPY BIRTH-DAY, ELLE!
TO THINK A GIRL LIKE HER EXISTS...
HEY... IT'S THE ATTACK OF THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD MIDGETS.
WELL, THAT MAKES IT GOOD AND LIVELY.
HEY, LOOK AT THAT.
HUH!
slurp

YOU CAN'T EXPECT HIM TO HOLD THAT LONG FACE WHEN HE'S DEALING WITH KIDS.
JUST WHEN YOU THINK HE'S ONLY A CLOCKWORK ROBOT, THE GUY SMILES.
ROBOT!
IT'S J THE ROBOT!
J!
J'S SMILING.
HE CAN EVEN CRY. HE RESPONDS ACCORDING TO THE SITUATION.
J IS VERY CLEVER, YOU KNOW. HE SMILES, AND GETS ANGRY ...
DON'T CRY, ELLE.
J...
MAMA IS.
MAMA'S GONE SHE WON'T COME BACK ANY-MORE J.
J CAME TO OUR HOUSE THE YEAR I WAS BORN, BOTH TO TAKE CARE OF ME AND TO BE MY BODYGUARD.
J...
SINCE THEN, HE'S BEEN WITH ME ALL THE TIME. STUDYING, DISCIPLINE, MANNERS AND ETIQUETTE -- HE WAS THE ONE WHO TAUGHT ME ALL OF THOSE.
J...
SO YOU'RE SAYING J WAS A ROBOTIC MOTHER TO YOU? -- I MEAN, A FATHER?

ELLE.
GOOD-BYE! SEE YOU LATER!
BYE!
I HAD SO MUCH FUN!
.....
ELLE?
HEY THEN, ISN'T J GOING TO BE LONELY WHEN YOU GO GET MARRIED, ELLE?
HA HA HA HA!
BOTH. HE WAS MY MOTHER, AND MY FATHER, AND MY FRIEND.
DON'T CRY.
I'M HERE.
I'LL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU.
MASTER CUORE AGAIN? JUST CHASE HIM OFF FOR ME, WILL YOU, J.
MASTER CUORE SAYS HE WOULD LIKE A WORD WITH YOU BEFORE HE RETURNS HOME.
YOU DECIDED THAT ON YOUR OWN!
HE IS YOUR FIANCE. YOUR BEHAVIOR TODAY WAS...
WITH ME IN MIND?
I CHOSE HIM WITH YOU IN MIND, ELLE.
AND ALSO ...
NO.

I DON'T UNDER-STAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, ELLE.
... YOU ALWAYS MAKE THAT WORRIED, TROUBLED FACE, EXACTLY THE WAY A HUMAN WOULD.
SO I JUST KEEP ON GETTING FOOLED.
ELLE ...
YOU'VE NEVER HAD ME IN MIND.
BUT EVEN SO...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND ...
.....
I DON'T UNDER-STAND ..
.....
DON'T CRY ...
ELLE?
ELLE ...
I'M HERE WITH YOU
SO DON'T CRY..
DON'T CRY, ELLE

MASTER CUORE IS WAITING, ELLE
.....
SLAP!
J...
J, LISTEN TO ME. I LOVE---
ELLE ..
YOU CAN HIT ME, BUT ONLY YOUR HAND WILL---
THAT'S RIGHT! MY HAND'S THE ONLY THING THAT WILL HURT! YOU CAN'T EVEN FEEL PAIN! I KNOW THAT!
ELLE
---AND YOU'RE JUST A MACHINE!


ELLE
BUT TO ME
J'S JUST A MACHINE WHY WOULD ELLE CRY OVER HIM?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
ELLE!
WHY WOULD SHE HIT HIM? I DON'T UNDERSTAND
J...
YOU ARE..
ELLE
SO, YOU KNOW, I THOUGHT HE WAS ACTUALLY HAPPY
MAYBE YOU THOUGHT ---
J SMILES A LOT AROUND CHILDREN
WHEN I WAS LITTLE, AND I PICKED FLOWERS FOR J, HE'D ALWAYS SMILE.
"..THEN IT WOULD PROBABLY MAKE J HAPPY, TOO."
"IF GETTING FLOWERS MAKES ME HAPPY.."

DO YOU... ..LOVE J?
YOU ...
...I ALWAYS HAVE.
...THAT HE LOVED ME THE SAME WAY...
AND I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT...
ELLE THIS IS MASTER CIORE.
ELLE.
BUT THEN HE ....
THEN ...
..ALL THAT WAS FOR J?
... BUT HE'S NOT HUMAN, ELLE...
IT WAS ALL AN ACT FOR HIM?
NO, HE'S NOT POOR THING...
"POOR THING" ..?
J'S BODY WON'T RUST OR ANYTHING.

**Elle actually says "Vampanella" a reference to Hideyuki Kikuchi's manga The Tribe of Dhampir
UNABLE TO RETURN TO DUST, EVEN WHEN THE REST OF US HAVE LEFT THIS WORLD
AS LONG AS NOBODY BREAKS HIM, HE'LL REMAIN ON THIS EARTH, JUST LIKE A VAMPIRE
UNCHANGING — HE'LL ALWAYS BE ALONE, NO MATTER WHAT
SO, AS LONG AS IT CAPTURES THE ATTENTION OF THAT POOR, BLOODLESS ROBOT
...IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW YOU TREAT A HUMAN LIKE ME?
JACK?
WAIT.
JACK, WAIT! I - I DIDN'T MEAN--!!
"POOR THING", YOU SAY?
WHO IS?
THAT MACHINE? THAT LUMP OF METAL, NO DIFFERENT FROM A MONORAIL OR A COMPUTER?
OR ME, WHO'S GETTING YANKED AROUND BECAUSE OF HIM?
Wsssh...

JACK, PERFECT TIMING... THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU.. IS NOW A GOOD TIME?
MISTER L.
JACK!!
RUSTLE
I'M BEING TOYED WITH, LIKE
LIKE AN ORGAN GRINDER'S TRICK MONKEY!
YES, MISTER L.
I HAVE BUSINESS WITH YOU AS WELL.
I DON'T MIND
..REALLY, I'M SORRY TO DRAG YOU BACK HERE... IT'S SOMETHING I CAN'T REALLY DISCUSS IN PUBLIC
Clatter
Clatter
creak

ARE YOU AVERSE TO MARRYING ELLE?
... EXCUSE ME?
JACK-- HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT BEING WITH ELLE?
CLICK
WELL, THE THING IS
...WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? ISN'T MASTER CUORE--
YOU MUST HAVE NOTICED. ELLE HATES MASTER CUORE
WHEREAS SHE SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN A FANCY TO YOU. AND I...
I WANT ELLE TO SETTLE DOWN AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
WHY THE RUSH? SHE'S ONLY EIGHTEEN...
BECAUSE J IS HERE.
.....
YOU MAY THINK IT'S NONSENSE, BUT I'M WORRIED. ESPECIALLY WHEN I LOOK AT ELLE LATELY...
SOMEDAY ...
SHE SEEMS AS THOUGH, SOMEDAY, SHE MAY REALLY SAY SHE'S MARRYING J...

<About Jack>
I like Jack. I have ever since people told me "Jack has a woebegone face". I felt sympathetic with him and fell in love.
In my mangs, there are dozens of guys who wear dark glasses but they're all!!!!!!!!! Jack.
Right! He s♬ "The man who takes up time"~ ♬

IF IT EVER COMES TO THAT, I THINK IT WOULD BE BEST TO JUST DESTROY J.

MISTER L--

J IS A VALUABLE ROBOT. BUT WITH ROBOTS, YOU CAN ALWAYS BUY ANOTHER ONE.

...WELL, JUST THINK IT OVER, JACK.

Jack's eyes, which never do see the light of day

Jack made his first appearance in "Change". At the rough sketch stage I was good and drew his upper face as though he could take his glasses off and expose his eyes to the public. But it was kinda cheesy so I stopped. Since then, I haven't taken his shades off for him even once. By now his eyesight may actually be deteriorating.

ELLE!! YOUR RIDE'S HERE.

COMING!

Whoosh
OH, GOOD.
YOU'RE EARLIER THAN USUAL TODAY, AREN'T YOU, J?
Rustle
JACK...
I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER SPEAK TO ME AGAIN.
Chuckle!
I THOUGHT THE SAME THING ABOUT YOU.
WHAT?
WELL, AT LEAST SHE DOESN'T HATE ME.
AND IF THERE'S REALLY A CHANCE THAT SMILE COULD BECOME MINE...
Whoosh
WHERE ARE WE GOING? JACK, THIS ISN'T...
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO SHOW YOU.

VOGUE ROBOT LABORATORIES
VOGUE
ROBOT
THIS IS...
JACK ..
.....
...THEN YOU'D BETTER SEE THIS.
IF YOU SAY YOU LOVE J...
JACK
Sections
JACK ...
.....
Hands
Legs

J ...
THIS IS A COMPLETED SAMPLE. "J" IS MADE AT THIS COMPANY.
COME AND LOOK.
ELLE, COME HERE.
JACK, LET'S LEAVE.
DOLL'S HEADS, WITH METAL EYES LIKE J'S...
JACK!!
ELLE.
ELLE.
J ISN'T DOING ANY MORE THAN THAT.
THESE ROBOTS ARE ALL MADE TO THINK, SMILE AND BEHAVE THE SAME WAY.
ELLE, DON'T CRY.
NO, YOU'RE WRONG.
JACK ..
DO YOU WANT TO MAKE HIM MOVE? HE SPEAKS IN THE SAME VOICE AS J.
WHY, JACK?
WHY...
ELLE, YOU NEED TO KNOW.
THIS IS TOO ...

ELLE.
NOT THIS ROBOT!
DON'T CRY.
YOU'RE WRONG! A LONG TIME AGO, WHEN I CRIED, IT WAS J WHO COMFORTED ME, NOT --!
--I LOVE YOU.
HE ISN'T HAPPY WHEN HE GETS FLOWERS. HE'S ONLY PRETENDING THAT HE IS. ...AND I--
J DOESN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND THAT YOU LOVE HIM.
JACK.
IF IT'S FOR HER...
IF IT'S SO THAT I CAN BE WITH HER...
---MILANO--
JACK, YA DONE GOOD.
FOR HER..
JACK ...

TAP TAP
ELLE?
ELLE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? IT'S SO LATE...
I BROUGHT YOU SOME FLOWERS, J. THEY'RE PRETTY WITH THE EVENING DEW ON THEM, AREN'T THEY?
---ELLE, YOU'LL CATCH COLD.
Flap!
.. AREN'T ..... THEY PRETTY?
YES. VERY PRETTY.
YOU'RE WORRIED THAT I'LL CATCH COLD?
YES. VERY WORRIED.
DO YOU ...
DO YOU LOVE ME, . J?

YES.
VERY MUCH.
……
ELLE, I WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY.
I WANT YOU TO BE WITH SOMEONE WHO LOVES YOU.
MASTER CUORE LOVES YOU.
YEAH…
ELLE, MASTER CUORE LOVES…
YES
I UNDERSTAND, J.
I UNDERSTAND VERY WELL, J.
ELLE…
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
YES, JACK.
I ACCEPT YOUR PROPOSAL.

I LOVE HER.
MORE THAN MILANO, MORE THAN ANY-BODY.
ELLE ...
I WON'T HAND HER OVER TO SOME ROBOTIC HEAP OF METAL.
IS THAT RIGHT! WELL, WELL!
IMAGINE THAT! WHAT A NICE COUPLE YOU TWO MAKE!
Wash
....
JACK ...
And such a quick wedding at that! How splendid! ♡
YES! TO JACK! ♡
MAR-RIED.
WHAT IS?
AH, THAT'S WONDER-FUL...
ELLE-SAMA IS GETTING MARRIED, J!

ELLE ...
AH! J!

COME! YOU'LL CELEBRATE WITH US TOO, WON'T YOU.
MARRIAGE?
HE'S GETTING MARRIED? --THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, RIGHT? THERE HAS TO BE SOME MISTAKE
IT'S A FACT, MILANO. THEY'RE HOLDING THE CEREMONY NEXT WEEK
-----I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, MILANO? SHOULD WE WATCH HIM A WHILE LONGER...
HE'S GONE CRAZY! I'LL GO BRING HIM BACK!
THAT'S NOT...
IT'S NOT EVEN POSSIBLE!
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT, J?
I'M BUSY GETTING READY FOR THE WEDDING IF YOU NEED SOMETHING ...
PLEASE CANCEL THE CEREMONY, MISTER NIGEL.

CANCEL THE CEREMONY QUICKLY AND LEAVE THIS PLACE.
WHAT DO YOU KNOW!?
YOU DO NOT TRULY UNDERSTAND YOURSELF
NOT SUIT-ABLE--
BECAUSE OF MILANO, YOU MEAN?
YOU CAN NOT MARRY ELLE. YOU ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR HER.
WHY?
I--
I LOVE ELLE! IF IT'S FOR HER, I'LL CUT ALL TIES WITH MILANO.
I'M NOT TAKING ORDERS FROM YOU--
I WILL HAVE YOU LEAVE, JACK.
...BY FORCE, IF I MUST.

THIS IS FOR ELLE'S SAKE.
IF IT COMES TO THAT, I'LL DESTROY J..
...THAT'S RIGHT. FOR ELLE'S SAKE..

..IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU LEFT, J.
.....
WHERE ARE THE VITAL POINTS ON A ROBOT?
EVEN IF I KILL YOU, IT WON'T BE MURDER ...SINCE YOU'RE JUST A ROBOT.
...JACK, YOU STILL DON'T UNDER-STAND.
I'LL NAIL HIM WITH ONE SHOT.
YOU'RE THE SAME...
THIS HEAP OF METAL --!
TLL
P!
slump

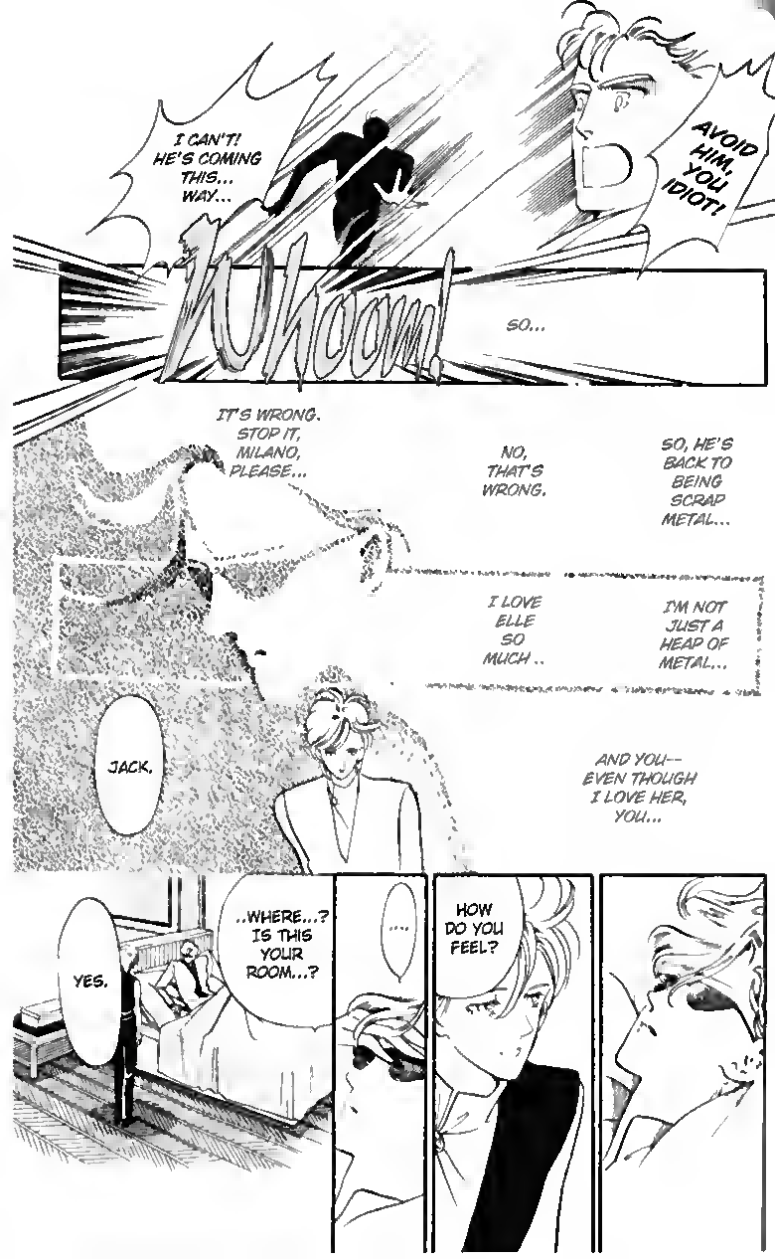
Bam!
KNOCK
Grab
Shff
J-!
J--
.....
SHIVER
JACK
Crumble
!
Hah!
JACK, ABOVE YOU--
!
CLOOOSH
JACK!!

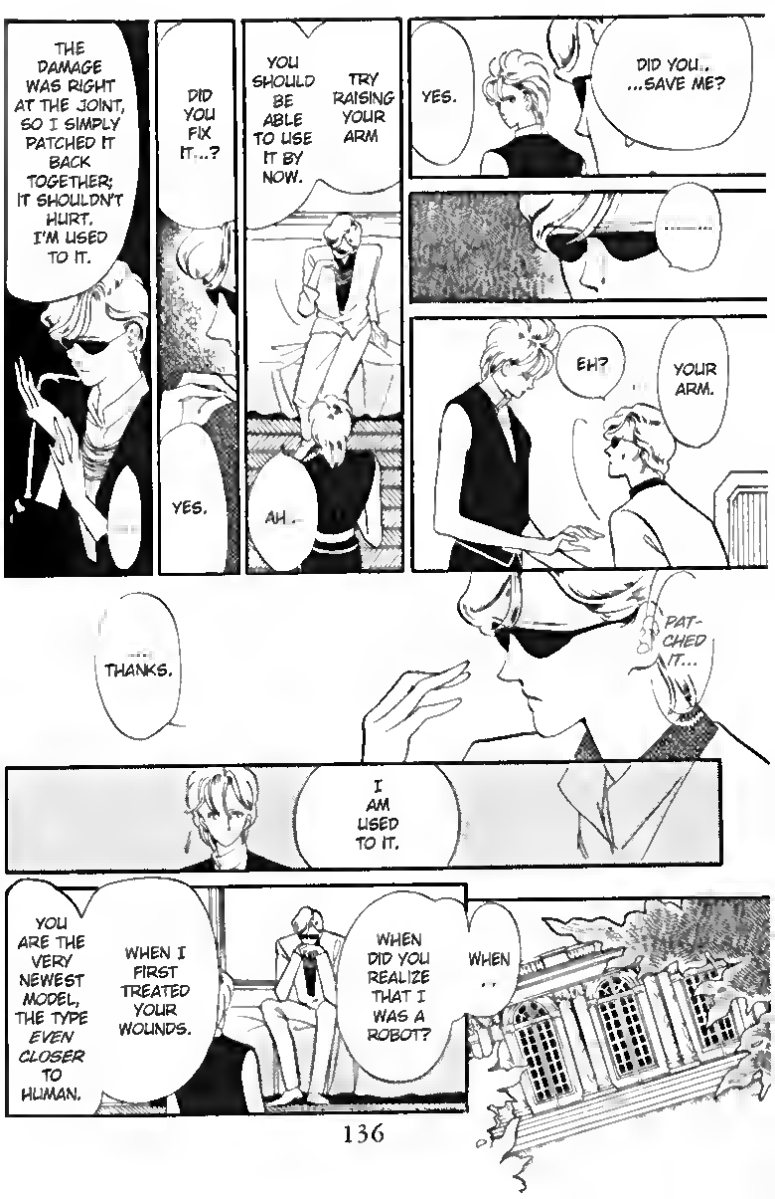
JACK!
JACK!
WHAT ...
SOME-THING FELL.... RIGHT ON MY ARM---
...BUT IT'S FINE.
IT DOESN'T HURT.
IT DOESN'T HURT.

IT DOESN'T HURT
JACK..
IT ISN'T MY ARM ISN'T BLEEDING.
IT DOESN'T HURT
JACK--
jerk back
..JACK THE SAME.
THE SAME
YOU'RE JUST THE SAME...
JACK!
NO MATTER WHERE OR HOW YOU CUT, YOU WON'T FIND BLOOD OR MUSCLE.
YOU HAVE NO EMOTIONS.

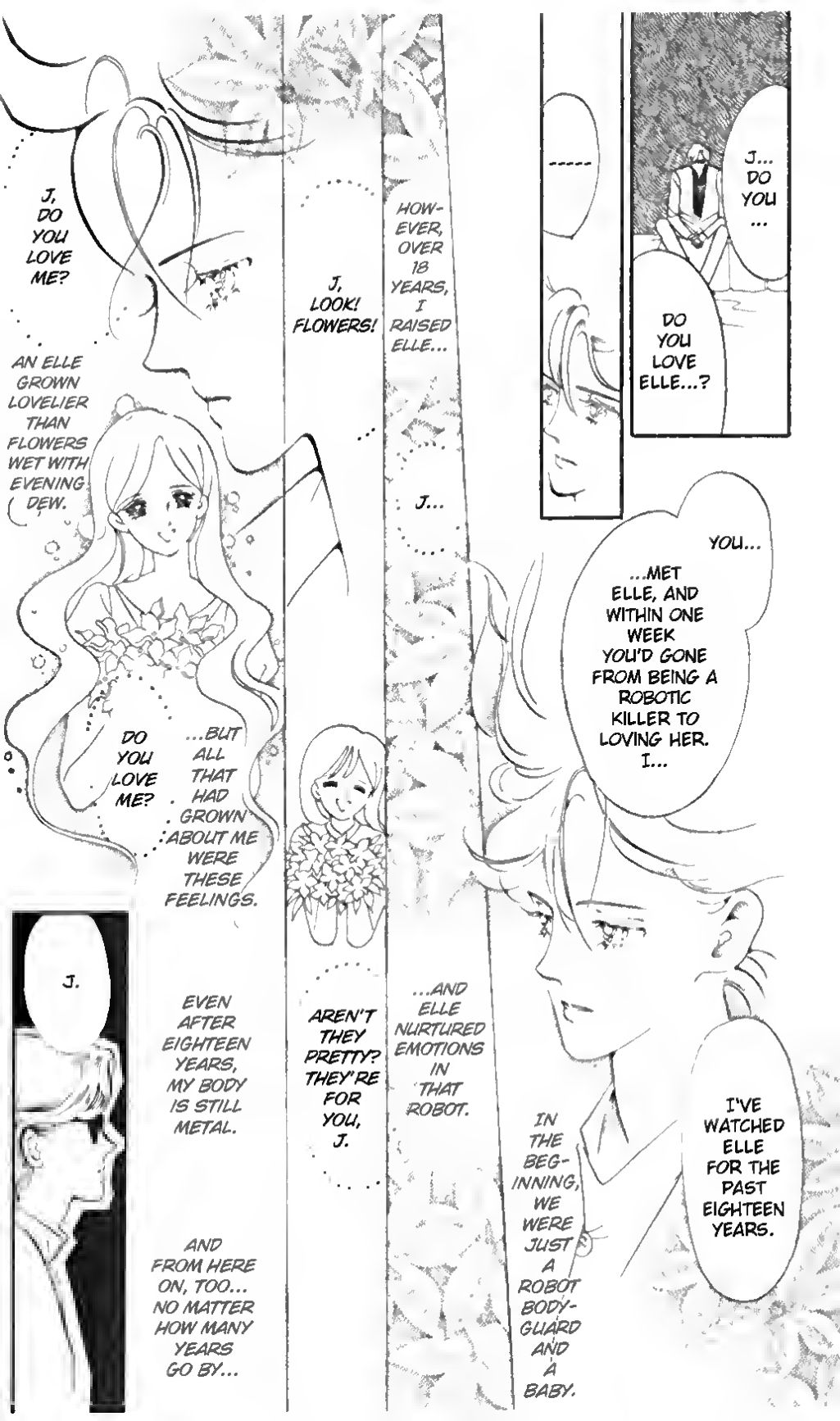
JACK... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
SLAM
YEAH!
.....? MILANO?
NO! I'M NOT LIKE THAT!
JAK!!
A HEAP OF METAL
NO!
YES! C'MERE, JACK.
Phew...
MILANO ...
MILANO!
GOOD, JUST LIKE THAT.
IT DIDN'T... BUT... I DON'T UNDERSTAND, MILANO. I DON'T UNDERSTAND MILANO.
THAT'S FINE... IT'S OKAY NOW. NO WORRIES. HURRY, GET IN THE CAR.
GOOD, GOOD. YOU'RE OKAY NOW, JACK.. WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT ARM? DID THE JOB GO SOUTH?
NO, THAT'S NOT..
MILANO ...

Shove!
GET THE COVER OVER HIM, QUICK!
PUMP THE GAS IN, GET HIM PARALYZED--
MILANO!
HISSSSS
WE CAN'T USE HIM ANYMORE. HEAD FOR THE LAB.
MILANO!
THIS ONE'S ... RUINED
MIL-ANO!
MILANO?
?
MILANO!!
BUT... HIS RIGHT ARM'S THE ONLY THING THAT'S BUSTED. IF WE GOT HIM REPAIRED, HE'D STILL BE...
NO. WE'D HAVE TO REINJECT HIS MEMORY...
AND YOU KNOW, WHEN HE'S NO USE ANYMORE ...
...ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO DESTROY HIM.
STOP ..
SO, HE'S BACK TO BEING SCRAP METAL AGAIN, HUH?
STOP IT, MILANO!
THERE'S A GUY--

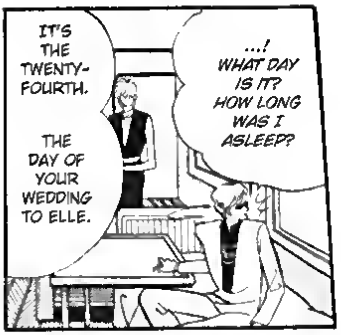

I CAN'T! HE'S COMING THIS... WAY...
AVOID HIM, YOU IDIOT!
Whoom!
SO...
IT'S WRONG. STOP IT, MILANO, PLEASE...
NO, THAT'S WRONG.
SO, HE'S BACK TO BEING SCRAP METAL...
I LOVE ELLE SO MUCH ..
I'M NOT JUST A HEAP OF METAL...
JACK.
AND YOU-- EVEN THOUGH I LOVE HER, YOU...
YES.
..WHERE...? IS THIS YOUR ROOM...?
....
HOW DO YOU FEEL?


THE DAMAGE WAS RIGHT AT THE JOINT, SO I SIMPLY PATCHED IT BACK TOGETHER; IT SHOULDN'T HURT. I'M USED TO IT.
DID YOU FIX IT...?
YES.
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO USE IT BY NOW.
TRY RAISING YOUR ARM
AH..
YES.
DID YOU.. ...SAVE ME?
.....
EH?
YOUR ARM.
PAT-CHED IT...
...THANKS.
I AM USED TO IT.
YOU ARE THE VERY NEWEST MODEL, THE TYPE EVEN CLOSER TO HUMAN.
WHEN I FIRST TREATED YOUR WOUNDS.
WHEN DID YOU REALIZE THAT I WAS A ROBOT?
WHEN..

MILANO I DIDN'T THINK ANYTHING OF KILLING PEOPLE, SO LONG AS IT WAS TO EARN YOUR PRAISE... BUT YOU...
THAT IS WHY ...
..FROM THEIR VIEWPOINT, YOUR CHOOSING ELLE OVER MILANO'S ORDERS WAS SOMETHING UNBELIEVABLE.
JACK
MEMORIES PLANTED TO KEEP YOU FROM BETRAYING HIM
YOU'RE A GOOD KID, JACK. GREAT JOB
IN REALITY, IT HASN'T BEEN EVEN TWO YEARS SINCE YOU WERE MADE
MILANO
BUT I... I WAS RAISED BY MOM UNTIL I WAS TWELVE... AND MILANO TAUGHT ME HOW TO USE A GUN...
THOSE WERE PROBABLY THINGS INJECTED BY MILANO.
YOU HAVE ALL THE PROPER PRESSURE POINTS ON THE SKIN OF NORMALLY SENSITIVE PLACES, SUCH AS YOUR HANDS, FACE AND FEET AS A RESULT, UNLIKE ME, YOU CAN FEEL PAIN JUST LIKE THE AVERAGE PERSON YOU CAN BE WOUNDED, TOO.
BUT
SINCE, ON TOP OF THAT, YOU'VE BEEN MODIFIED FOR USE AS A KILLER, I DOUBT THERE'S A ROBOT ANYWHERE TO EQUAL YOU.
IN THEIR EYES, THAT CAN BE SEEN ONLY AS A SYSTEM BREAKDOWN
BUT... I LOVE ELLE
J.
YOU THOUGHT OF ME IN JUST THE SAME WAY
....
THAT ROBOTS CAN LOVE PEOPLE... THAT THEY HAVE FEELINGS. IT'S UNTHINKABLE TO THEM. THEY CAN'T ACKNOWLEDGE IT.


J, DO YOU LOVE ME?
AN ELLE GROWN LOVELIER THAN FLOWERS WET WITH EVENING DEW.
DO YOU LOVE ME?
...BUT ALL THAT HAD GROWN ABOUT ME WERE THESE FEELINGS.
J.
EVEN AFTER EIGHTEEN YEARS, MY BODY IS STILL METAL.
AND FROM HERE ON, TOO... NO MATTER HOW MANY YEARS GO BY...
J, LOOK! FLOWERS!
AREN'T THEY PRETTY? THEY'RE FOR YOU, J.
HOW-EVER, OVER 18 YEARS, I RAISED ELLE...
J...
...AND ELLE NURTURED EMOTIONS IN THAT ROBOT.

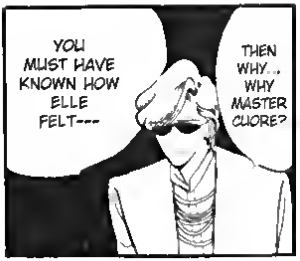
J... DO YOU ...
DO YOU LOVE ELLE...?
YOU...
...MET ELLE, AND WITHIN ONE WEEK YOU'D GONE FROM BEING A ROBOTIC KILLER TO LOVING HER. I...
IN THE BEG-INNING, WE WERE JUST A ROBOT BODY-GUARD AND A BABY.
I'VE WATCHED ELLE FOR THE PAST EIGHTEEN YEARS.


IT'S THE TWENTY-FOURTH.
THE DAY OF YOUR WEDDING TO ELLE.
...! WHAT DAY IS IT? HOW LONG WAS I ASLEEP?

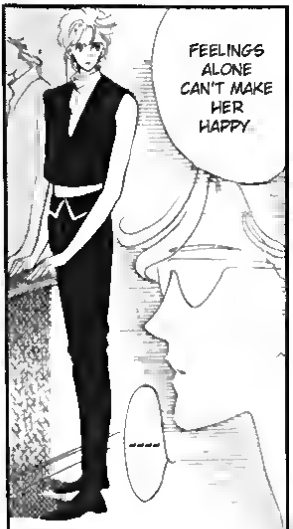
WHERE DO YOU INTEND TO GO?
Clatter

IF YOU DON'T GO, MASTER CUORE WILL BE THE GROOM.
I'VE GOT TO--
THAT IS HOW IT SHOULD BE, JACK.
MASTER CUORE!?

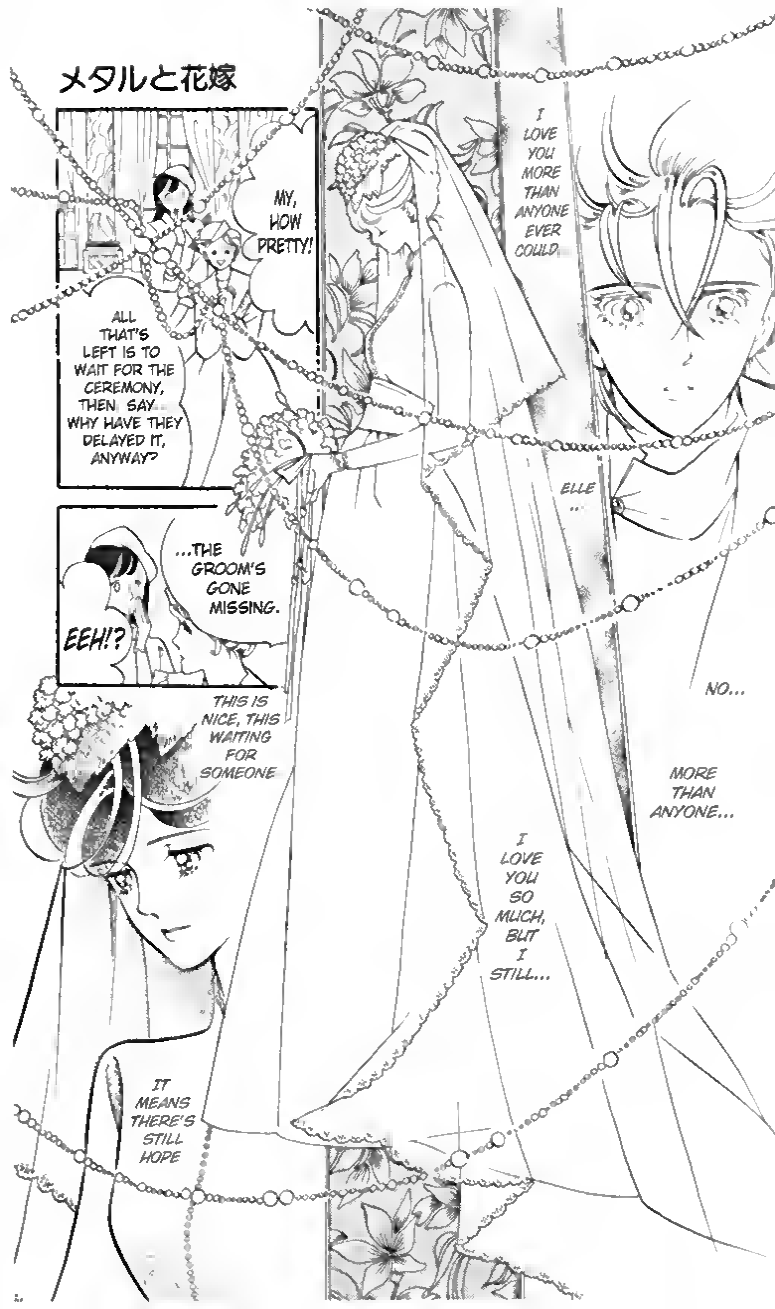
"THAT'S HOW IT SHOULD BE"..


YOU MUST HAVE KNOWN HOW ELLE FELT---
THEN WHY... WHY MASTER CUORE?

AND IF I DID?


FEELINGS ALONE CAN'T MAKE HER HAPPY

YOU'RE JUST A ROBOT!
AS LONG AS YOU GO ON LIKE THAT, KEEPING YOUR FEELINGS LOCKED INSIDE YOURSELF, YOU'RE NO DIFFERENT FROM A MACHINE!
JACK--
THIS WAY, NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU LOVE ELLE-- IT'S THE SAME AS IF THAT FEELING WAS NEVER GROWN TO BEGIN WITH!
JACK, YOU STILL DON'T--
I'M DIFFER-ENT!
I CAN LOVE HER. EVEN IF MY BODY IS METAL.
EVEN AFTER SIXTY YEARS, WHEN SHE'S GOTTEN OLD...
NO--
I CAN MAKE HER HAPPY!
GRAB


メタルと花嫁
MY, HOW PRETTY!
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO WAIT FOR THE CEREMONY, THEN SAY... WHY HAVE THEY DELAYED IT, ANYWAY?
...THE GROOM'S GONE MISSING.
EEH!?
THIS IS NICE, THIS WAITING FOR SOMEONE
IT MEANS THERE'S STILL HOPE
I LOVE YOU MORE THAN ANYONE EVER COULD.
ELLE ..
NO...
MORE THAN ANYONE...
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH, BUT I STILL...

J...
THOSE METAL EYES I LOVED...
RIGHT NOW, I CAN WAIT FOR ANYONE...
...THINK OF ANYONE
HE LOVES ME.
Yay Yay
HURRY TO THE FRONT!
JACK!
WHAT HAPPENED!?
WHERE WERE YOU, JACK!?
MAKING YOUR BRIDE WAIT---!
YOU HAD ME WORRIED!
THERE HE IS!
THIS MAN IS KIND ENOUGH TO LOVE ME.
NOW THEN...
WE ARE GATHERED HERE IN THE NAME OF GOD TO CELEBRATE THE UNION OF JACK NIGEL AND ELLE BRAIN...

DO YOU TAKE THIS WOMAN TO BE YOUR LAWFULLY WEDDED WIFE, IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH...
I DO.
...AS LONG AS YOU BOTH SHALL LIVE?
AND DO YOU TAKE THIS MAN....TO BE YOUR LAWFULLY WEDDED HUSBAND?
-----DO YOU?
EH?
....I DO...
THEN WE WILL CONTINUE WITH THE EXCHANGE OF RINGS...
...AND SEAL THE VOWS WITH A KISS
WAIT
THAT VOICE
WOULD YOU... TAKE OFF THOSE SUNGLASSES?
THAT VOICE IS...
J?

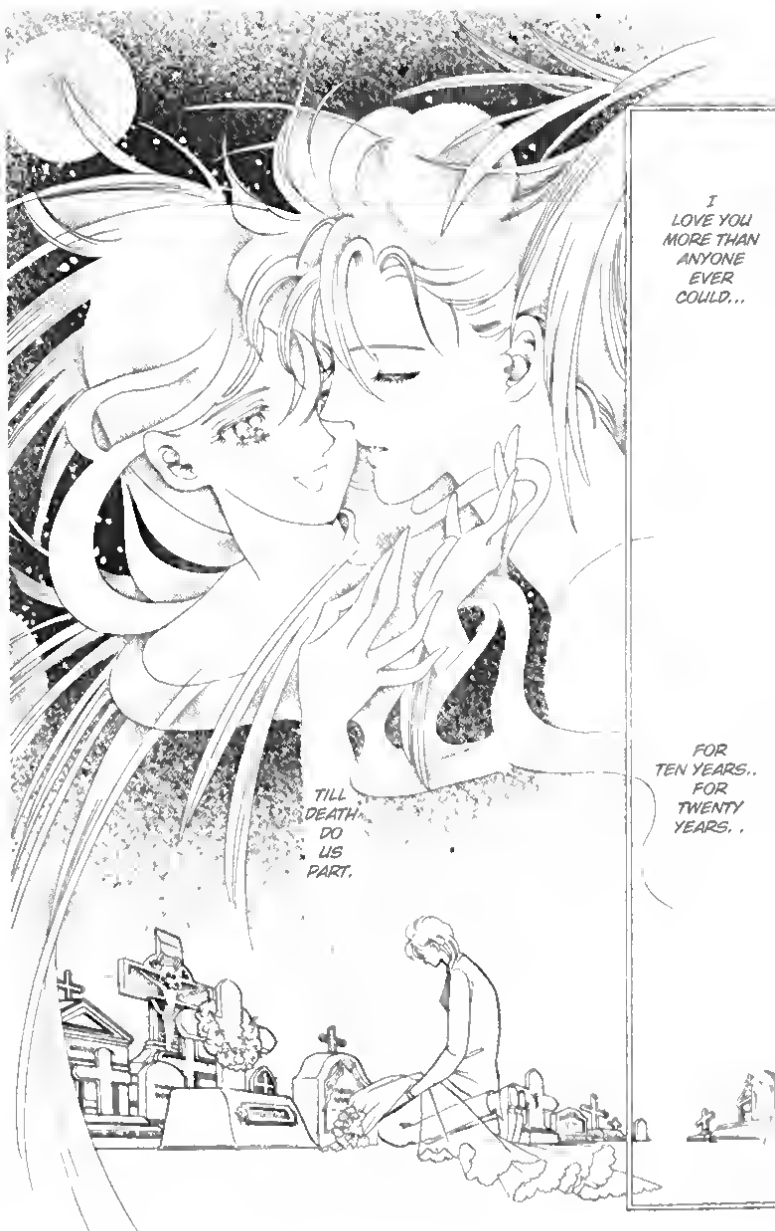
METAL EYES...
J...
J...
J!
J...
YOU--
SIL-ENCE!!
J'S EYES.
J... I KNEW IT...
...THAT REFLECT THE LIGHT...
SILENCE.
BUT IT'S WRONG! FATHER, THAT'S NOT--
WHETHER FOR TEN YEARS... OR TWENTY YEARS...
I DO...

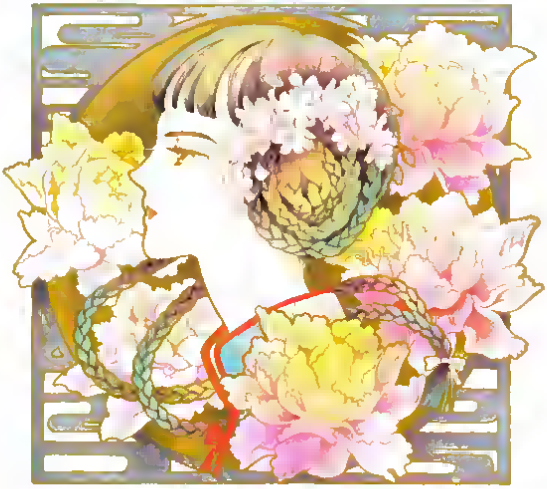
SIR.
SIR? SHOULD I WRAP THE SUNGLASSES FOR YOU?
OH-- NO. I'LL JUST WEAR THEM.
SO THERE REALLY ARE STILL PEOPLE WHO STEAL SUNGLASSES?
SURE ARE. TOOK MY BRIDE, TOO.
...WHAT DID YOU SAY?
J AND ELLE'S ELOPEMENT WAS A BIG SENSATION IT SET THE MEDIA BUZZING FOR A GOOD LONG TIME
Eloped with A Robot!
AND TIME FLOWED ON...
MILANO'S DEAD?
OR SIXTY YEARS...
TILL DEATH DO US PART...

MILANO...
I'D ALWAYS MEANT TO KILL HIM SOME-DAY...
EVEN THOUGH THE MEMORIES YOU CARVED INTO ME ARE STILL THERE.
YEAH. A LONG TIME AGO....
IS THAT RIGHT IT'S BEEN THAT LONG?
YEAH. HAS BEEN FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS. I HEAR HE GOT UP TO SOME PRETTY SHADY STUFF IN HIS YOUNGER DAYS, BUT HE WAS GETTING ON IN YEARS, AND IT WAS HIS TIME.
WHY DO YOU ASK, MISTER? DID YOU KNOW MILANO?
JACK, YA DONE GOOD!
JACK!
...YOU'RE GONE..
...COMPARED TO BACK THEN, YOU SEE ROBOTS EVERYWHERE NOWADAYS.
THIS FELLA WAS CHEAP THOUGH, AND HE'S TOTALLY NO GOOD. ALL HE DOES IS MAKE MIS-TAKES.
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT. WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH HELP AROUND HERE.
ROBOT?
GAH! NOT AGAIN!
NICK!! I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT MISTER.
YOU ARE A SERIOUSLY WORTHLESS ROBOT, YA KNOW THAT?

I THINK IT'S RIDICULOUS MYSELF, BUT I'VE GOT A DAUGHTER TOO, SO I WAS KINDA WORRIED, Y'KNOW?
... YEAH ..
SAY MISTER, REMEMBER THAT STORY? THE ONE ABOUT THE ROBOT ELOPING WITH THAT GIRL -- YOU KNOW, A FEW DECADES BACK.
PEOPLE LIKE HIM CAN SAY THE CRUELEST THINGS IN FRONT OF A ROBOT AND NEVER THINK TWICE.
.....
WHAT'RE YOU STILL HANGING AROUND HERE FOR, NICK? YOU'RE IN THE WAY! GET OUTTA HERE.
.....
Ow
HA HA HA
-- SO I PICKED THE UGLIEST ONE THEY HAD!
KOBE
MAJ
IN THE END, NO MATTER HOW MANY ROBOTS THERE ARE, THEY'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND...
!!.....
OKAY?
DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT PAPA SAYS!
? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT.. YOUNG MISTRESS?
YOU'RE NOT EVEN THE LITTLEST BIT UGLY, NICK!
Well, I don't think you are
.....
NICK, YOU IGNORE HIM, YOU HEAR?
NICK.
Whssssh
.. WHERE FEELINGS LIE..

HOW FEELINGS ARE NURTURED...
MHSA
OR HOW..
.....
Annie, where are you? It's teatime, come on.
COMING!
I WILL ALWAYS BE ALONE.
.....
POOR THING...
ELLE, WHO CRIED FOR A MACHINE.
ELLE...
BACK THEN, SHE ALREADY UNDERSTOOD MORE ABOUT ROBOTS THAN I, A ROBOT, DID.
...
ELLE
ELLE..
MORE THAN ANYONE..


I LOVE YOU MORE THAN ANYONE EVER COULD...
FOR TEN YEARS.. FOR TWENTY YEARS. .
TILL DEATH DO US PART.



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